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filling up the hole he entered. In this way they very soon completely bury the snake alive, without subjecting themselves to any danger. During this operation the snake keeps up a constant threatening.

No animal has been able to do without water for any protracted period. Now, are we to suppose that prairie dogs are exceptions? While in a cage they partake of water freely, and when it is withheld for any length of time, they become languid and die. May we not conclude that in their prairie towns they have an underground passage to water? The country on which the villages are usually located does not in any way go to disprove it. Geographically, the idea and evidence strongly aid. Rain is too uncertain, and in most cases is brief and long deferred; so that to suppose an animal could endure the protracted drouth, where dews are very light or wanting, is decidedly improbable, to say the least. If not by such wells, when surface water is miles from the villages, in what other way can water be obtained?

HABITS OF AMBLYCHILA CYLINDRIFORMIS.

By H. A. Brous.

DESCRIPTION.

A. cylindriformis Say. Color, pitch black; elytra often brownish. Labrum with two obtuse teeth at middle. Head as large as the thorax; smooth. Eyes small. Thorax subcordate, margin not prominent, surface smooth, impunctured, subapical transverse impression faint. Elytra oblong, nearly twice as long as wide, humeri broadly rounded, sides feebly arcuate, apex suddenly declivous, surface coarsely but not densely punctured, and with two indistinct rows of large punctures and three fine carinæ on each side, the outer and inner extending to three-fourths, the intermediate slightly longer. Body beneath nearly smooth. Length, 1.20-1.25 inches.

Male—Hind trochanter acute and grooved. Female—Hind trochanter shorter, obtuse and smooth.

This beetle, usually considered very rare, is, I am satisfied, much more common than heretofore supposed. I base this opinion on my own observations, and have a good collection to sustain it. Their peculiar habits are evidently the great cause of their rarity, and once understood, I am positive they will become quite common. Their geographical distribution is, so far as is now known, rather limited; yet there is now no reason to suppose that they will not, eventually, be found extending over a large portion of Kansas, Colorado, northern Arkansas, and Arizona.

The following is what I have learned concerning them: Nocturnal (crepuscular), rarely being taken until after sunset, and occasionally in the morning. Found usually along clay banks, living in holes generally made by themselves, where they find that seclusion so congenial to their nature. The state of the weather affects appreciably this insect. When cold and blustery, they remain concealed, preferring a warm, balmy air; occasionally, a warm, cloudy afternoon will entice them from their retreats, but this is rarely to be expected. Like the rest of Cicindelidæ, they are predaceous. They also feed on effete matter. In many of their habits they are like *Asida*.